

SECTION 1

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS ABOUT ARIZONA CHARTER SCHOOLS

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ABOUT CHARTER SCHOOLS AS PUBLIC SCHOOLS

There are more than eight times as many charter schools operating in Arizona today than there were in 1995, the first year of operation. Parents, teachers, schools administrators and others from the public or private sector have many questions about Arizona's charter schools.

Charter schools are public schools that have entered into contract with the State Board of Education, the State Board for Charter Schools, or a public school district to provide educational services to Arizona students.

Each school has determined the age, grade level and number of students it will serve. Each school has agreed to admit all eligible pupils who submit a timely application, unless the number of applications exceeds the capacity agreed upon in the charter contract. If capacity is insufficient to enroll all eligible students who apply, admission will be determined by an equitable selection process such as a lottery. Preference shall be given to students returning to a charter school in a second or subsequent year and to siblings of students already enrolled in the charter school.

Applications for all schools chartered by school districts are on file for public viewing at the Charter Schools Liaison Office on the second floor of the Arizona Department of Education, 1535 W. Jefferson St., Phoenix, 85007. Applications for all schools chartered by the State Board of Education are available in the charter school division's office of the SBE, also on the second floor of the Department of Education. Applications for all schools chartered by the State Board for Charter Schools are on file at their office at 1700 W. Washington St., #164, Phoenix, AZ 85007. Regular business office hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except for state holidays.

The questions most frequently asked are addressed in this section. By referring to this section of the handbook before calling the Charter Schools Liaison Office, the State Board of Education Charter Schools' office, or the State Board for Charter Schools' office, an applicant may save a great deal of time and effort.

The web site for the Arizona Revised Statutes is
[http:// www.azleg.state.az.us](http://www.azleg.state.az.us)

The website to find an online version of the Charter School Handbook is
<http://www.ade.az.gov/charterschools/info/>